

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

AFL-CIO

NORMAN SMITH, California Director



The Agricultural Worker



Northern California Area Council

805 EAST WEBER AVENUE
STOCKTON 3, CALIFORNIA
HOWARD 6-0384

HENRY ANDERSON, Acting Chairman
KATHERINE ANGULO, Acting Vice-Chairman
STELLA JUAREZ, Acting Secretary

El Trabajador Agrícola

Vol. 1, No. 3

NEWSLETTER ---- CARTA DE NUEVAS

October 28, 1961

THE MOVEMENT WHICH WILL NOT DIE

Editorial by Henry Anderson

EL MOVIMIENTO QUE NO QUIERE MORIR

ANG LAYUNING HINDI MAMATAY KAILAN PA MAN

Perhaps the greatest importance of the strike in Santa Cruz is what it means to the survival of the whole farm labor movement. While people were thinking AWOC was dead the brussels sprouts workers of Santa Cruz went quietly ahead and organized themselves. They are holding firm in the extremity to which the employers have pushed them: a strike. This is lifting the hearts of farm workers throughout California and the nation.

Whatever the outcome of this strike, it will no longer be possible for anyone to say that farm workers can't or don't want to be organized. The heroism of the Santa Cruz sprout workers ensures the continued life, in one form or another, of the farm labor movement. This is the gift of those 230 workers to the other 2,300,000 farm workers of the United States. It is a gift which will be difficult ever to repay fully.

Here then is the deeper significance of what is happening in Santa Cruz County: it tells the world that this is a cause -- the farm labor movement -- which will not die, because the human spirit will not die.

Tal vez la maxima importancia de la huelga es que significa al supervivencia del entero movimiento en labor agrícola. Mientras que la gente pensaba que AWOC estaba muerto, los trabajadores en brussels sprouts de Santa Cruz seguiero silencitos organizandose. Estan deteniendose en la extremidad donde los empleadores los an empujado: esta huelga está dando anima a todos los trabajadores agrícolas en California y la nation.

Qualquiera resultado de esta huelga, ya no pueden decir que los trabajadores agrícolas no pueden ni quieren ser organizados. El heroismo de los trabajadores en Santa Cruz aseguran la vida continua, en una forma o otra, del movimiento en labor agricola. Este es un regalo de estos 230 trabajadores a los otros 2,300,000 trabajadores agrícolas de los Estados Unidos. Es un regalo que va ser muy deficit a compensar.

Aqui tenemos lo que es el mas significativo de lo que esta pasando en Santa Cruz: dice al mundo que este es una causa -- el movimiento en labor agrícola -- que no va morir, porque el espirita humano nunca puede morir.

Sigurong ang pinakamalaking kahalagahan ng pagwewelga ay ang kanilang pagasa sa pagtatahumpay ng kanilang mga layunin. Samantalang ang intindi ng mg tao ay namatay na ang AWOC, ang mga mangagawa wa brussels sprouts sa Santa Cruz ay tahimik na binuklod nila ang knailang sarile sa ilalim ng isang bagong samahan ng mga mangagawa sa bukid.

Lubos ang kanilang paniniwala na ang mga nagpapatrabajo sa brussels sprouts ay siyang may kasalanan kung bakit sila nagwewelga

Kahit na ano ang kahinatnan nitong pagwewelgang ito ng mga mangagawa sa brussels sprouts sa Santa Cruz, ay hindi masasabi ng sino man na ang mga mangagawa sa bukid ay hindi gustong magsamasama sa iliaim ng isang samahan ng mga magbubukid.

Itong pagwewelgang ito ay isang katunayn na hindi mapipigil ang pagsasamasama ng mga mangagawa sa bukid.

Ang pagwewelga ng 230 mangagawa sa brussels sprouts sa Santa Cruz ay maaring magbigay ng pagasasa 2,300,000 mangagawa sa bukid dito sa buong Estados Unidos ng Amerika.

Kung gayon, ang malalin na kahulugan kung ano ang nangyayari sa Santa Cruz, California ay ganito: ipinakikilala sa buong daigdig any malaking pagasa ng mga mangagawa sa bukid na mabuklod sila sa ilalim ng isang samahan; hindi mapipigil ang kanilang paniniwala sa kanilang ipinaglalban at sa kanilang dakilang layunin.

STORY OF THE STRIKE

Brussels sprouts pickers in Santa Cruz County have been on strike since October 18. Twelve fields are struck by the 230 domestic workers, mainly Filipino-Americans, who are involved. Picket lines are being maintained.

The workers' early efforts to negotiate with growers were reported in The Agricultural Worker of Oct. 11.

Growers refused then, and refuse now; the workers' demand for recognition of their union, AWOC.

Although since the strike, growers are paying \$1.10 an hour instead of \$1.00, the workers are holding out for the right to bargain collectively with their employers--this time and in the future.

The sprout-pickers considered their actions carefully ahead of time, knowing that a strike can be a very long and hard struggle.

Oct. 13 they met and gave arguments for and against a strike. When a vote was finally taken, the decision was unanimous, to go on strike Oct. 18, if growers still refused to negotiate.

Oct. 17 they met to examine their decision. After discussion, the vote was again unanimous for the strike.

FULL HOUSE AT MONDAY MEETING

The first meeting at the new AWOC Santa Cruz Branch office, 713 Pacific Avenue, took place October 23. A standing-room crowd of more than 70 people attended. Speeches by Rufino Nachor, Larry Itliong, Hank Anderson, Bob Pepper, Anne Draper and Sue Keisker, were followed by questions from the audience.

Anne Draper, representative of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, said, "I'm tremendously moved by your courage and your determination to fight not only for yourselves but for all farm workers.... We can live without brussels sprouts, but we cannot live without the right for you to enjoy the same things other Americans enjoy."

Sue Keisker, of the National Advisory Committee on Farm Labor in New York City, indicated her organization's deep concern and support for the drive going on in Santa Cruz County.

HISTORIA DEL HUELGA

Pizcadores de bretones en Santa Cruz han estado en huelga desde Octubre 18.

Doce fils se pusieron en huelga por 230 trabajadores locales, la mayor parte Filipino-Americans. Lineas de Piquete se estan manteniendo.

Los esfuerzos de negociar primeramente con los agricultores se reportaron en El Trabajador Agrícola, Octubre 11.

Los agricultores reusaron entonces, y ahora, las demandas de los trabajadores especialmente reconocer la union, AWOC.

Aunque los rancheros han pagado \$1.10 la hora en vez de \$1.00 desde el comienso de la huelga, los trabajadores insisten en el derecho de hacer tratos colectivos con sus empleadores -- ahora y en el futuro.

Los trabajadores estudiaron sus acciones con esmero antes de hacerlo, sabiendo que una huelga puede ser un esfuerzo muy dificil.

En 13 de Octubre se reunieron y discutieron por y contra una huelga. Cuando se tomo el voto, por fin, la decision fue un anima, hacer huelga, Octubre 18, si seguian negociar los rancheros.

Octubre 17 se reunieron a examiner su decision. Despues dela discusion, el boyo fue unanimo por la huelga.

GRAN REUNION EN LA JUNTA DEL LUNES

La primer junta del Lacaal nuevo Santa Cruz, 713 Pacific Avenue, se ejecuto October 23. Se lleno la oficina con mas de 70 personas. Rufino Nachor, Larry Itliong, Hank Anderson, Bob Pepper, Anne Draper y Sue Keisker hablaron. Hicieron preguntas los reuidos.

Anne Draper, rep. del Amalgamated Clothing Workers, dijo, "Ke da tremendo animo al ver su valor y su firmesa en su pelea, no solo por si mismos pero por todos los trabajadores agricolas.... Podemos vivir sin comer sprouts pero no podimos vivir sin el derecho de gozar las cosas quel resto de America cosa."

Sue Keisker, del Comité Consejero en Labor Agrícola, Nueva York, dio a saber el interes y soporte que su organizacion siente por la campaña en Santa Cruz.

(Continued)

Larry Itliong, AWOC Representative, said, "I would like to plead to you for the sake of our own group...I know and you know we have been abused a lot of times -- not just a few times, a lot of times. But let us **forget** those abuses we have had in the past. Let us win the friendship of all the other groups by showing them our cooperation, by showing them we know how to fight battles, by showing them we have the courage to be together."

Rufino Nachor, Chairman of the AWOC Santa Cruz Branch, expressed what a union means. "...it means to be dignified. It means to be recognized in the city of Santa Cruz. It means to be proud. It means to walk through the streets and look up at the people, right in the eye...."

ORGANIZATION PAYS - AS GROWERS KNOW

Over the past five years brussels sprouts growers have enjoyed improved productivity, from 5.2 tons per acre in 1957 to 7.8 tons per acre today.

Growers' Position on Wages

But the same growers who are getting 130% more than they were five years ago now complain when their workers decide they should get 25% more than they were **getting** five years ago.

Even more unreasonable is the growers' position on union recognition.

Unreasonable because the way the brussels sprouts growers have been able to increase their profits is that they have a union of their own.

Growers' Union

Every grower of brussels sprouts is required to pay "dues" to an organization called the Brussels Sprouts Marketing Order. This organization tells each grower how many sprouts he may sell and what standards of quality he must meet.

If a grower violates these orders, he may be fined \$500 for each violation. And his organization, his union, the Marketing Order is enforced by agencies of the state of California.

So the growers have a very tight "union shop." Yet these same growers say they will not recognize their employees' right to organize a union of their own.

The sprout growers have no leg to stand on. It is time for an end to this kind of double standard, not only in Santa Cruz brussels sprouts, but in agriculture in general.

AWOC has long been in favor of growers' right -- in fact, their obligation -- to organize themselves for legitimate purposes. All we ask is the same right.

Larry Itliong, rep. de AWOC, dijo, "Les pido por amor de si mismos.... Yo se y Uds. saben que hemos sido abusados bastante -- no solo unas cuantas veces, pero muchas veces. Pero vamos olvidando los abusos del pasado. Vamos ganando la amistad de todos enseñándoles nuestra coperación, enseñándoles que sabemos pelear nuestras mismas batallas, enseñándoles que tenemos la fortitud de seguir unidos.

Rufino Nachor, Chairman del Local Santa Cruz, AWOC, expresó lo que significa una union. "...significa dignidad. Significa ser reconocidos en la ciudad de Santa Cruz. Significa tener orgullo. Andar por el pueblo y mirar la gente, como iguales...."

PAGA ORGANIZARE -- COMO SABEN LOS RANCHEROS

En los ultimos 5 años los agricultores de bretones han gozado aumentos en produccion de 5.2 toneles por acre en 1957 a 7.8 toneles ahora.

Ademas, el precio que reciben por cada tonel ha subido de \$1,640,000 en 1957 a \$3,581,000 en 1960: un aumento de 130.5 por ciento.

Sueldos y Los Agricultores

Pero los mismos rancheros que estan haciendo 130 % mas que hace 5 años, se quejan ahora que sus trabajadores decidieron deberian ganar 25% mas que estaban gavando 5 años pasados.

Mas irrazonable que ésto es, suposicion tocante la union.

Union delos Rancheros

Cada agricultor de bretones está requirido pagar "cuotas" a una organizacion llamada el Brussels Sprouts Marketing Order. Ésta organizati6n da orden a los rancheros de qué tantos bretones debe vender y qué normas de calidad deben Man- tener.

Si uno de ellos viola estas ordenes, paga multa de \$500 por cada niolaci6n. Y su organizacion, su union, el Marketing Order es enforzada por agencias del estado de California.

Asi es que los agricultores tieneuna union figa. Y asi éstos rancheros dicen que no reconozen el derecho de organi- zarse que tienen sus em pleados. No hey nada que dice eso es justo. Es tiempo de que cambie esta clase de norma con- fliwta, no solamente en Santa Cruz pero en la agricultura en general.

AWOC siempre ha reconozido el derecho --en actulidad--la obligacion de cul - tores a organizarse. Lo unico que pedi- mos es el mismo derecho.

PROFILES IN COURAGE

PERFILES EN VALOR

(The following statements were prepared from tape recorded interviews made in Santa Cruz on October 24.)

MARTIN PESCA, Member, Santa Cruz Branch, Northern California Area Council, AWOC.

I came to California in 1928. I have worked in carrots, asparagus, grapes, fruits -- and sprouts.

I have worked in Santa Maria, Santa Ana, San Joaquin Valley, Vacaville, Salinas Valley, Santa Clara Valley, and Santa Cruz County.

When I first came to the United States, I thought I would go back to the Phillippine Islands some day. But I never made enough money. I never married. Never made enough money to support a family. I would like to retire soon, but how can we with the kind of wages we are getting?

Ever since I came to California, I have been a farm worker, except during World War II. I was in the Army for four years. I was in the South Pacific Campaign. I was in the infantry.

This is my first time to be a member of a union. I believe a union is a good thing for any working man. I believe when we stick together the growers will heed our demands. I believe we will win this strike.

MARCOS TOLENTINO, Member, Negotiating Committee, Santa Cruz Branch, AWOC.

I arrived in California in 1926, when I was 17 years old. My first job was thinning lettuce near Salinas. I have worked in the Emperor grapes in Fresno; thinned sugar beets in Montana; worked in the salmon canneries in Alaska in the summer; the brussels sprouts in Santa Cruz County; and many other jobs.

The growers pay very low wages. The camps are not good yet -- not exactly comfortable, not exactly clean. The weather is changeable -- sometimes misty, and sometimes rainy. We have to buy our own rain clothes. Boots cost \$15.00. Rain pants are about \$6.00; rain jackets about \$7.00. We also have to buy rain hats and rubber gloves, with canvas lining.

I belonged to a union in the fish cannery. But this is the first time I have belonged to a farm workers' union. I know very well there is strength in unity. It is the only way...for common laborers to face the challenge of these growers.

I will stay a farm laborer all my life. That's the only way I can live.

(Las declaraciones siguientes fueron preparadas de grabaciones tomadas durante entrevistas en Santa Cruz, Octubre 24.)

MARTIN PESCA, Miembro, Local Santa Cruz Northern California Area Council, AWOC.

Llegué a California el 1928. He trabajado en la zanahoria, el esparrago, uva, fruta, y bretones.

He trabajado en Santa Maria, Santa Ana, Valle San Joaquin, Vacaville, Valles Salinas, Santa Clara y el Condado de Santa Cruz.

Cuando primero vine a los E. U., pensé que algun día volvería a las Islas Filipinas. Pero nunca hice bastante dinero. Nunca me casé. Nunca tube la oportunidad. Nunca hice bastante para soportar una familia. Me quisiera jubilar en poco tiempo, pero ¿Como podemos con los sueldos que hacemos?

Desde que vine a California, he sido trabajador agrícola, con excepción de la Guerra Mundial II. Estube en el ejército por cuatro años. Pelé en el Pacifico. Estaba en la infanteria.

Esta es in primera vez que soy miembro de una union. Yo siento que una union es cosa buena para cualquier hombre trabajador. Yo creo que si seguimos unidos, los rancheros nos harán caso. Yo creo que ganaremos ésta huelga.

MARCOS TOLENTINO, Miembro, Comité Negociante, Local Santa Cruz, AWOC.

Llegué a California en 1926, cuando tenía 17 a-os de edad. Mi primer trabajo fue desaijar lechuga cerca de Salinas. He trabajado en las unvas en Fresno, desaijado betabel en Montana; trabajado en las canerías del salmon en Alaska en el verano; los bretones en el Condado Santa Cruz; y muchas otras ocupaciones.

Los rancheros pagan sueldos muy meñdigos. Los campos tadavia no están buenos -- ni exactamente conforables, ni exactamente limpios. El tiempo es cambiabile -- a veces nebuloso, a veces lluvioso. Tenemos que comprar ropa para la lluvia. Botas cuestan \$15. Pantalones como \$6; chaquetas como \$7. Tambien tenemos que comprar sombreros y guantes de goma, con lona por dentro.

Yo herá miembro de una union en la caneria de pezcado. Pero ésta la primer vez que he pertenecido a una union de trabajadores agrícolas. Yo sé muy bien que hay fuerza en unidad. Es el unico modo...para que trabajadores puedan pelearle a los rancheros.

Seré trabajador agrícola toda mi vida. Es el unico modo que puedo vivir.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ACT

ACCIÓN EL GOBIERNO

Two government agencies have investigated the strike in Santa Cruz and decided that the strike is legal. These decisions will cripple the growers' efforts to recruit strike breakers.

The California Department of Employment, which began investigation on Oct. 18, announced on Oct. 23 that the strike qualifies as a bona fide "labor dispute." Therefore its offices will no longer refer workers to the fields involved.

The U. S. Department of Labor also began investigation Oct. 18 and on Oct. 24 announced that the continued use of braceros in the sprout harvest would constitute strikebreeding. About 200 braceros have been removed from the fields.

New Farm Labor Policy

The removal of braceros in Santa Cruz sprouts came two days after a speech made by Assistant Secretary of Labor Jerry F. Holleman in Los Angeles. Holleman said that a grower may not use braceros if 51% or more of the American workers go on strike. The order in Santa Cruz was reportedly the first enforcement of this provision.

The Assistant Secretary predicted sweeping changes on all fronts of the farm labor situation. Secretary of Labor Goldberg will set up a minimum wage that must be offered to domestic workers before Mexicans may be imported, he said. Holleman expects this wage to attract domestics to farm labor and to end the bracero program entirely. The growers can afford this increase, he asserted, since "farm productivity has gone up 45 per cent in the last 10 years while the wage level has gone up only slightly and farm prices have remained fairly steady."

STRIKE FUND APPEAL SENT

The strikers have sent a letter requesting contributions for a strike fund.

"We want the same human right to organize with our friends and fellow workers that other Americans enjoy."

The letter concludes, "We do not know how long the growers will refuse to meet with us. We have no resources for strike benefits, even to buy our food. We need your help."

"Please send any amount you can contribute to the Santa Cruz Strike Fund, 805 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton. If your organization is in the Northern California area, let us send a speaker to explain our situation."

"If you can do nothing more, please let us know of your concern and moral support. We are determined to hold firm, but we need to know we are not alone."

OUR APPRECIATION goes to Mr. Jose C. Alba of the Stockton Filipino Community for the Tagalog translation on page 1.

FLASH! Over \$85 has been received since the fund appeal was sent our two days ago.

Dos agencias de gobierno investigaron la huelga en Santa Cruz y decidieron que la huelga es legal. Estas decisiones paralizan los esfuerzos de reclutar rompeshuelguistas.

El Departamento de Empleo comenzo investigar el 18 de Octubre. El 23 anuncio que la huelga califica una "disputa de labor" legal. La oficina no mandan mas trabajadores a los campos en huelga.

El Departamento de Labor Federal tambien comenzo investigacion Oct. 18, y el 24 anuncio que el uso de braceros constituye romper la huelga. Como 200 braceros se han removidos de los campos.

Nueva Politica Agrícola

La removida de braceros en Santa Cruz se ejecuto dos dias despues de un anuncio por el Secretario Asistente de Labor Jerry Holleman en Los Angeles. Holleman dijo que un agricultor no puede usar braceros si 51% o más de los trabajadores Americanos son huelguistas. La orden en Santa Cruz era la primera ejecución de este proviso.

El Secretario Asistente predijo gran cambios por todos frentes de la situación en labor agrícola. Secretario de Labor Goldberg va poner minimo pago que debe de ser ofrisado a trabajadores domesticos antes de importar Mexicanos, dijo Holleman.

Supone Holleman que este pago va a llamar trabajadores domesticos al labor agrícola y poner al fin el programma de braceros. Los agricultores tienen con que pagar esta crecida porque "la productividad de terreno agrícola crecio 45% en diez años mientras la nivel de pago crecio un poco y los precios se han quedaron regularmente fijados."

SUPLICA PARA LA HUELGA

Los huelguistas han mandado una súplica, pidiendo contribuciones para un fondo de asistencia.

"Queremos los mismos derechos humanos de organizar con nuestros amigos y compañeros de trabajo que gozan otros Americanos."

"La carta termina, "No sabemos cuanto tiempo negarán negociar con nosotros los rancheros. No tenemos ningun fondo de huelgo, ni siquiera para comprar comida. Necesitamos su ayuda."

"Cualquier contribución que desee mandar, favor de dirigirla a Santa Cruz Strike Fund, 805 E. Weber Ave., Stockton. Si su organización está en Norte California, podemos mandar alguien para explicar nuestra situación."

"Si no pueden hacer nada mas que mandar soporte moral, lo agradecemos bastante. Estamos dispuestos ha seguir firmes, pero necesitamos saber que no estamos solos."

NUESTRO APRICIO va a Sr. José Alba del Stockton Filipino Community para la translación en Tagalog puesto en pagina 1.

NOTICIA! Hemos recibido \$85 desde mandamos recado para el fondo, en estos dos dias pasados.

OUR BROTHERS NUESTROS HERMANOS SANTA CRUZ



Brother Billy Nisperos, one of the twelve crew leaders who have demonstrated their solidarity with the workers by walking out with their crews.

Hermano Billy Nisperos, uno de los doce crew leaders que han demostrado sus solidaridad con sus trabajadores -- saliendo con ellos.



Brother Rufino Nachor, veteran of 30 years in brussels sprouts; veteran of the U.S. Navy; chairman of the Santa Cruz Branch, Northern California Area Council; head of strike comm.

Hermano Rufino Nachor, veterano el 30 años en brussels sprouts; presidente del Santa Cruz Branch, Northern California Area Council.



Crew leaders picking up signs to be taken back to their camps, for the establishment of picket lines.

Crew leaders recogiendo letreros para volverlos a sus campos para establecer un cordon de piquetes. La primera mañana de la huelga: Octubre 18.



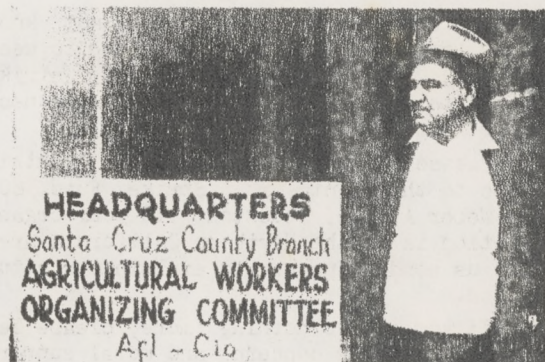
Marcos Tolentino, member of the Negotiating Committee, in front of temporary headquarters, culinary workers' local 483 office.

Marcos Tolentino, miembro del Negotiating Committee, en frente de la oficina de los trabajadores culonarios Local 483. Esta local dió su oficina por centro de dirección temporario.



Two brothers on picket line at Polleti Camp, near Davenport. Sign in Tagalog reads, "In Unity there is strength!" Sprouts field in background.

Dos hermanos en el cordon de piquetes al Polleti Camp cerca de Davenport. El letrero en Tagalog dice, "En unidad hay fuerza."



Norman Smith, California AWOC Director, in doorway of the recently-opened Santa Cruz Branch office: 713 Pacific Avenue.

Norman Smith, California AWOC Director, in lo entrada de la nueva oficina del Santa Cruz Branch, 713 Pacific Avenue.